

This is Ralph's story, as reported recently in Focus on Carlsbad magazine. Ralph worked in the oilfields. One day, in 2006, on his way home, he was almost killed in a traffic accident. In an instant, his life was changed forever. He spent 6 weeks in intensive care and then 3½ months at a rehabilitation hospital. He survived but was left a quadriplegic. Ralph McGary had to face tremendous loss, and then he had to decide how to move forward with his life.

It is impossible for any of us to fully realize what an ordeal that must have been for Ralph or what courage and determination it has required of him every single day just to keep going, just to find his way on a path that he never imagined he would be on. But move forward he did. Drawing upon his own valiant spirit and with the help of others, among his family and in his community. His is a classic American story of self-reliance and community support.

He found valuable allies at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in Carlsbad. Despite his severe physical impairment, Ralph still wanted to work, still wanted to be as productive as his condition would allow. DVR is a State-Federal organization. Its mission is to work with folks like Ralph to find employment, to help them overcome their disabilities.

DVR provided Ralph with a computer and a special voice recognition software. His counselor at DVR, Barry Jolly, explained:

We worked with him to develop a plan. That included going back to school and completing his degree. We don't just identify employment. We identify a strategy to get from where you are to where you need to be.

Ralph is still on that journey getting from where he has been to where he needs to be. He requires 24-hour care. His family, like so many others, tried to provide that care at home for as long as they could. For now, Ralph resides at a local nursing care facility. Most of his disability income pays for his nursing home care. He keeps about \$60 a month. But his dream of greater independence continues. He dreams of some day being able to adapt his home to accommodate his needs.

In the meantime, he earned his associate's degree from the New Mexico State University-Carlsbad. Last year, he obtained a part-time job at the Jeff Diamond Law Firm. The firm had helped him obtain his Social Security disability benefits, and SSA allows him to earn a certain amount of money each month without reducing his disability income.

In his work at the law firm, Ralph calls himself the "reminder guy." He calls clients to remind them of their appointments or other matters relating to their disability claims. He knows their struggles. He understands what they are going through. His job not only provides some extra income, it boosts his morale and his connection to his community, and the McGary family is very much a part of the community.

His wife, Susan, has taught at Carlsbad schools for over three decades.

Jolly told Focus on Carlsbad that:

Ralph is a determined man and a sharp individual. I used to work in the oilfields too, so I think we speak the same language. I think one of his strengths is his ability to get along with other people and his understanding of how things work.

Those are admirable qualities—getting along with others. Understanding how things work. We need more of that here in Washington, DC. People like Ralph McGary should expect no less of us. Ralph faced his challenges. We should face ours.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13405 OF JUNE 16, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO BELARUS—PM 12

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2013.

In 2012, the Government of Belarus continued its crackdown against political opposition, civil society, and independent media. The September 23 elections failed to meet international

standards. The government arbitrarily arrested, detained, and imprisoned citizens for criticizing officials or for participating in demonstrations; imprisoned at least one human rights activist on manufactured charges; and prevented independent media from disseminating information and materials. These actions show that the Government of Belarus has not taken steps forward in the development of democratic governance and respect for human rights.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine Belarus's democratic processes or institutions, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 13, 2013.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:27 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 634. An act to provide end user exemptions from certain provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

H.R. 742. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Commodity Exchange Act to repeal the indemnification requirements for regulatory authorities to obtain access to swap data required to be provided by swaps entities under such Acts.

H.R. 2167. An act to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish additional requirements to improve the fiscal safety and soundness of the home equity conversion mortgage insurance program.

At 3:28 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1038. An act to provide equal treatment for utility special entities using utility operations-related swaps, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1256. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to jointly adopt rules setting forth the application to cross-border swaps transactions of certain provisions relating to swaps that were enacted as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

At 5:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2217. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for

the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 634. An act to provide end user exemptions from certain provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 742. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Commodity Exchange Act to repeal the indemnification requirements for regulatory authorities to obtain access to swap data required to be provided by swaps entities under such Acts; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 1038. An act to provide equal treatment for utility special entities using utility operations-related swaps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 1256. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to jointly adopt rules setting forth the application to cross-border swaps transactions of certain provisions relating to swaps that were enacted as part of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 2167. An act to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish additional requirements to improve the fiscal safety and soundness of the home equity conversion mortgage insurance program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2217. An act making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-19. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging support for continuation of the STARBASE program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 85

Whereas, STARBASE is a U.S. Department of Defense youth program which targets at-risk students who are historically underrepresented in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Established in 1993, the STARBASE program has grown to 76 locations across 40 states, including three Michigan sites: Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, and Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center. The program reached about 3,500 Michigan students in Fiscal Year 2012; and

Whereas, STARBASE provides exceptional, hands-on curriculum to participating schools and students that helps overall comprehension of science and math and improves MEAP scores. It provides an inquiry-based curriculum of experiential, exploratory learning to motivate fifth graders to explore STEM as they continue their education. A more recent addition, STARBASE 2.0, is aimed at middle school students in an after

school program. It offers robotic training opportunities and participation in the Lego League team robotics challenge. STARBASE works with school districts to support their learning objectives and expands relationships with local networks of STEM initiatives and organizations; and

Whereas, The rapid pace of technological change and the globalization of the economy demand that our workforce be literate in science and math. Less than one percent of current elementary students are expected to seek advanced education in the sciences. STARBASE raises student interest and improves their attitudes and confidence in STEM skills: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the support for continuation of the STARBASE program; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-20. A concurrent resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urging the Congress of the United States to maintain operation of the 179th Airlift Wing at Mansfield-Lahm Regional Airport in Mansfield, Ohio; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, The United States Air Force 179th Airlift Wing is a military airlift organization assigned to the Ohio Air National Guard and stationed at Mansfield-Lahm Regional Airport; and

Whereas, Due to its superior record, the 179th Airlift Wing received a mission to operate the C-27J Spartan aircraft, a twin turbo-prop aircraft with short takeoff and landing capabilities, ideal for the nation's current military needs and for providing rapid response support for homeland emergencies; and

Whereas, The United States Air Force has published proposed personnel actions associated with plans to retire more than 300 aircraft nationwide, including the C-27J; and

Whereas, The United States Air Force has plans to move personnel positions among states to mitigate the impact of the reductions; and

Whereas, The United States Air National Guard, including the 179th Airlift Wing, is responsible for homeland defense, and the C-27J is an important tool in accomplishing this mission; and

Whereas, The 179th Airlift Wing has made United States Air National Guard history by deploying the C-27J in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom; and

Whereas, Closing the Air National Guard Station at Mansfield-Lahm, relocating its personnel, and diverting or retiring its C-27J aircraft would create discontinuity and weaken national defense and homeland disaster readiness: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States is urged to maintain operation of the 179th Airlift Wing at Mansfield-Lahm Regional Airport to ensure Ohio and our nation will continue to benefit from the unique experience and capabilities of its personnel and the region; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and to the news media of Ohio.

POM-21. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan memorializing Congress to pass H.R. 1014 to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to provide that military technicians (dual status) shall be included in military personnel accounts for purposes of any order issued under that Act; to the Committee on the Budget.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 71

Whereas, A federal military technician (dual status) is a federal civilian employee who is assigned to a civilian position as a technician in the administration and training of a Selected Reserve on in the maintenance and repair of supplies or equipment issued to a Selected Reserve or the armed forces. The Selected Reserve include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Reserves, and the Army and Air National Guards. The primary mission of a military technician is to provide day-to-day continuity in the training of reserve units, particularly, Army and Air National Guard. More than 58,000 military technicians are currently employed helping to maintain our military readiness; and

Whereas, Military technicians are generally required to maintain membership in the National Guard or Reserve as a condition of their employment. They are required to attend weekend drills and annual training with their reserve unit and military technicians can be involuntarily ordered to active duty just as other members of the Guard or Reserve; and

Whereas, Under sequestration, uniformed military personnel are exempt from furlough days and pay cuts. However, military technicians in the National Guard and the Reserves were not exempted, placing the readiness of our military at home and abroad at risk: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize Congress to pass H.R. 1014 to amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to provide that military technicians (dual status) shall be included in military personnel accounts for purposes of any order issued under that act; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-22. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana memorializing the Congress of the United States and requesting the Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce to take such action as necessary relative to red snapper season; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the National Marine Fisheries Service, an agency in the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, through the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, to manage and regulate marine species located in the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, such management and regulation includes a determination of the sustainability of each species and preservation of the sustainability through the setting of take limits, individual fishing quotas, and opening and closing seasons; and

Whereas, on March 25, 2013, a temporary emergency rule was published in the Federal Register that gives the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Services the authority to set separate closure dates for the recreational red snapper season in federal waters off the individual Gulf of Mexico states; and